

Oxytheca watsonii Torrey & A. Gray**WATSON SPINECUP**

FAMILY: *Polygonaceae*, the buckwheat family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program WATCH LIST, ranks: G3? S3?**

USFWS/ESA: none. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** none. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** none.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): 10 occurrences mapped; total estimated individuals 209+, total estimated area unknown. **TREND:** unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): In California, threats include grazing and recreational use (Bittman 1998). In Nevada, threats are a proposed missile system (Mozingo, 1980).

INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA): Not yet systematically surveyed in Nevada. Most recent entered survey 1993, average year of last survey 1979. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 10%; **11-20 yrs:** 20%; **21-30 yrs:** 60%; **31-50 yrs:** 10%.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA) in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada state lands (?), Native American lands (?).

RANGE: Eureka, Lander, Mineral, and Nye counties, Nevada; also in CA. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 157.0 km (97.5 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 4200-6530 feet (1280-1990 meters).

HABITAT (NEVADA): Dry, open, loose and/or lightly disturbed, often calcareous, sandy soils of washes, roadsides, alluvial fans, and valley bottoms, in salt desert shrub communities with Atriplex, Sarcobatus, Hymenoclea, Lycium, etc.

PHENOLOGY: flowering late-spring to summer. Range of most frequent **survey months:** March-September.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: annual.

DESCRIPTION: An annual herb. Leaves basal, oblanceolate to obovate, generally sparsely strigose and glandular. Involucre narrowly funnel-shaped. Perianth greenish white to pink, hairy; lobes entire.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Mozingo and Williams (1980).

OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES (listed separately): Goodrich (1981), Hickman (1993).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Ertter, B. 1980. A revision of the genus *Oxytheca* Nutt. (Polygonaceae). *Brittonia* 32: 70-102.
